

A complete audio file of this meeting will be posted under the agenda portion of the County website once available.

VIRGINIA: A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD REMOTELY ON THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. USING THE 'GOTOMEETING' PLATFORM:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/447043917>

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY
SUPERVISOR JUDY LYTTLE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH HOLMES
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. DANIELLE POWELL, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. RAY PHELPS, EMERGENCY SERVICES
MR. WILLIAMS SAUNDERS, BUILDING AND PLANNING
MS. LAJEUNE STONE, YOUTH AND FAMILY RESOURCES
MR. DELON BROWN, NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ AGENDA ADOPTION

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elliott who then led those present in a moment of silence followed by this evening's invocation given by Reverend Douglas Adams, of Lebanon Baptist Church. Following the invocation, Chairperson Elliott asked Supervisor Lyttle to lead those present in the pledge of allegiance. The working agenda was adopted by roll call vote.

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	UNAVAILABLE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Meeting Minutes: February 20, 2020; February 24, 2020; March 5, 2020 5PM; March 5, 2020 7PM
2. Resolution 2020-08: National EMS Week
3. Resolution 2020-09: Business Appreciation Month

Supervisor Calhoun made a motion to adopt the Consent Items as presented. Supervisor Drewry seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority during roll call vote. **(Approved)**

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	UNAVAILABLE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

NEW BUSINESS

1. COVID 19 Small Business Assistance Grant

Mr. David Harrison, Economic Development Director, advised of a small business assistance grant in the amount of \$20,000 to help small businesses in Surry County affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts will be coordinated between the Board and the Economic Development Authority.

Supervisor Drewry made a motion to approve the COVID 19 Small Business Assistance Grant as presented. Supervisor Lyttle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority during roll call vote. **(Approved)**

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	UNAVAILABLE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

PRESENTATIONS

1. *Economic Impact Analysis of Proposed Spring Grove Solar III - Solar Discussion - Urban Grid (informational purpose only)*

Mr. David Harrison, Economic Development Director, advised that Mr. Roger Bowers, would be presenting to the Board informational items that do not require actions this evening.

(A copy of Mr. Roger Bowers presentation is attached as an integral component of these minutes.)

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Supervisor Elliott advised all public comments received are being forwarded and reviewed by all Board of Supervisors and the Acting County Administrator.

(Citizen Comments mailed into comments@surrycountyva.gov are attached as an integral component of these minutes.)

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Elliott advised Ms. Melissa Rollins, Acting County Administrator of Surry County, has completed and received a Certified Credential Management certification from ICMA.

Board members thanked all County staff for their continued efforts during this time.

REPORTS

Mr. Ray Phelps, Chief of Emergency Services, advised of the upcoming hurricane season. Surry County citizens are advised to wear masks, practice social distancing, handwashing and hygiene measures. Mr. Phelps reminded the Board and citizens, the stay home order is currently still in place until June 10, 2020. If citizens have any questions or concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in Surry county please email covid19@surrycountyva.gov. Mr. Phelps also recognized Surry County volunteer firefighters, EMS, and all Emergency staff.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Supervisor Elliott entertained a motion to adjourn. Supervisor Drewry made a motion that the Board continues their meeting to Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Lyttle and unanimously approved by roll call vote.

SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.	AYE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL DREWRY	AYE
SUPERVISOR JUDY S. LYTTLE	AYE
SUPERVISOR KENNETH R. HOLMES	AYE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CALHOUN	AYE

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

The next BOS meeting will be held Thursday, May 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM and will include a public hearing.

Presentation
Economic Development Discussion
Spring Grove Solar III, LLC

Good evening, thank you for allowing Spring Grove Solar III, LLC to speak tonight about Solar Economic Development. In February, the company submitted applications for rezoning and a Conditional Use Permit for a 600-acre parcel south of Route 10. The Planning Commission is scheduled to hear those applications on May 18th with an anticipated hearing before this Board in July. Tonight, the company would like to provide you with an overview of recent changes in state law that directly (and positively) impact solar economic development. In addition, our goal is to provide tangible example of how the new Revenue Share law has the potential to bring additional revenue to Surry County at a time when shortfalls are expected.

The 2020 Virginia General Assembly passed several new laws that directly affect solar economic development. Now signed by Governor Northam, in consultation with Mr. Harrison we have looked for ways for solar development to bring greater economic benefit to Surry using these new tools that take effect July 1, 2020. Specifically, two new laws touch directly on solar economic development:

Revenue Share (VA Code 58.1-2636) – Upon adoption of a revenue share ordinance, allows localities to assess \$1,400 per megawatt per year on solar equipment based on capacity in lieu of the M&T taxation. This additional revenue has no restrictions on how it is used, no impact on state education funding formula and no partial exemption, valuation or depreciation as is otherwise applicable to a machinery and tools taxes.

Host or Siting Agreement (VA Code 15.2-2316) - Localities and solar developers can negotiate business terms and conditions for approval of solar projects as part of a siting agreement. An agreement may also provide funding for capital projects in the locality's capital improvement plan or broadband and may supersede provisions of the zoning ordinance. Agreements are allowed in census tracts that are eligible (not designated) as a federal opportunity zone and funding is limited to capital projects.

Given more time, we are willing to further discuss any questions you may have about these new laws generally. Now, we would like to discuss how these changes can positively impact Surry.

When the Board considered the Budget in April, we heard that public service corporation revenue for the County was declining. The new Revenue Share law can bring additional economic opportunity to Surry County to backstop this decline. It provides for a simple

payment of increased revenue on equipment capacity, year in and year out, without having any restrictions on those funds or any reduction due to depreciation.

Using this new law, if the County adopts solar revenue sharing Spring Grove Solar III will voluntarily “opt-in” and provide an annual fixed payment of \$1,400 per megawatt AC for each megawatt of capacity approved for its project. This annual payment would replace the depreciating M&T tax. Again, these funds would not be restricted to capital projects and the increased revenue would not affect state education funding.

For Spring Grove Solar III’s proposed 60MW project this would provide Surry an additional \$84,000 of unrestricted revenue each year. Previous estimates showed that our proposed Project could provide \$1.1M in M&T tax revenue over a 35-year Project life. If we partner in a Revenue Sharing program, over that same period, this **60MW Project will provide \$2.9M in revenue** which represents an increase of \$1.8M to the County. Not only would this revenue stream avoid fluctuating changes in public service equipment valuation or depreciation, but this revenue would be in addition to the increased land value of solar use and the related boosts in construction and operations expenditures in the County.

The recent laws were put in place for solar development to bring additional economic opportunity to counties. Our project can bring this significant positive economic impact to Surry County. Today, we present our proposal and ask the Board’s blessing to continue discussions with Mr. Harrison and the County Attorney to hammer out the details. All specific recommendations would be brought back to the Board for your consideration.

These are trying times that challenge us all to capture positive opportunities as they become available. We know that solar development will bring increased revenue to Surry County with little impact on the cost of County services. With revenue sharing, we can increase that positive economic impact without any restrictions on the use of those funds, unlike the siting agreement legislation in which the allocated funds are restricted to capital improvement projects.

Spring Grove Solar III wants to bring economic development opportunities to Surry as a landowner and a good neighbor. This Revenue Share taxation would add additional revenue for Surry County on top of the increased revenue from solar use.

We thank Mr. Harrison for his efforts. We appreciate your time tonight. Please let us know if we may answer any questions.

**Public Comments for the Board of Supervisors Meeting held
May 5, 2020 @ 7:00 P.M.**

FYI: A few of these were sent in through the County Website, so you may have already read them, but I included them just in case. I did respond to those sent in through the website asking if they were meant to be 'public comments' to please forward them to the comments@surrycountyva.gov email address.

Supervisor You Wish to Contact Mr. Robert Elliott, Chairman

Name Joyce Montgomery

Email Joymontgo@gmail.com

Phone 7576455998

Preferred Contact Method	Field not completed.
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Message

Dear Mr Elliott, I live in Claremont and am a member of a volunteer group called friends of the Claremont library. It has come to my attention that we may be losing funding for the library here. Should our library close we would lose what has been a valuable asset to this community for more than 40 years. Please help us keep this resource and let us know what we can do to make that happen. Respectfully, Joyce Montgomery

Contact Board of Supervisors

Supervisor You Wish to Contact All Board of Supervisors

Name Fran Barnes

Email franbarnes@hotmail.com

Phone 758-377-7985

Preferred Contact Method	Email
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Message If I understand correctly, financial support for the library is on the agenda at this time, in particular, cutting some support. I urge you

to continue to continue giving full support to both of our libraries, Surry and Claremont. After speaking with pride often about the new building in Surry and having a branch in Claremont, I cannot imagine why you would talk of closing Claremont down and not giving full support. This may be a time where some new programs cannot be added, but to diminish the value of a library is frightening and wrong! Consider looking at other areas of waste, perhaps new jobs. In addition, I was wondering if our county still supports the Genieve Shelter? Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Page Moore** <pagemoore43@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2020
Subject: Library funding
To: Comments@surrycountyva.gov
Cc: Town of Claremont <townclaremont@aol.com>

I have been a resident of Surry County, residing in the town of Claremont for 3 years. The town has little to offer, however the library is the best of the best, the staff is enthusiastic, helpful, caring individuals. It is truly the heartbeat of a dead town. To think it may be closed is frightening, where will we go, who will meet the needs of a small community. Please continue to fund this very needed treasure.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: May 7 BOS Meeting
From: "Bob Oliver" <bob@homeinsurry.com>
Date: Thu, May 07, 2020 2:08 pm
To: <comments@surrycountyva.gov>

Contact Board of Supervisors

Supervisor You Wish to Contact All Board of Supervisors

Name	Bob & Kathryn Oliver
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Email	bob@homeinsurry.com
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Phone	7575925854
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Preferred Contact Method	Email
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Message

Please reconsider cutting the budget for the Claremont Library. The library is one of the last remaining facilities open for the community and it serves as a focal point in an already weakened economic area. It has been a vital part of the Claremont community.
Please reconsider.

Contact Board of Supervisors

Supervisor You Wish to Contact All Board of Supervisors

Name Bob & Kathryn Oliver

Email bob@homeinsurry.com

Phone 7575925854

Preferred Contact Method Email

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Please reconsider.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Library funding

From: Page Moore <pagemoore43@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 05, 2020 5:25 pm

To: Comments@surrycountyva.gov

Cc: Town of Claremont <townclaremont@aol.com>

I have been a resident of Surry County, residing in the town of Claremont for 3 years. The town has little to offer, however the library is the best of the best, the staff is enthusiastic, helpful, caring individuals. It is truly the heartbeat of a dead town. To think it may be closed is frightening, where will we go, who will meet the needs of a small community. Please continue to fund this very needed treasure.

----- Original Message -----

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Date: Tue, May 05, 2020 5:25 pm
To: Comments@surrycountyva.gov
Cc: Town of Claremont <townclaremont@aol.com>

I have been a resident of Surry County, residing in the town of Claremont for 3 years. The town has little to offer, however the library is the best of the best, the staff is enthusiastic, helpful, caring individuals. It is truly the heartbeat of a dead town. To think it may be closed is frightening, where will we go, who will meet the needs of a small community. Please continue to fund this very needed treasure.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Tax rate
From: Mike Eggleston <michael.eggleston@aol.com>
Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 3:52 pm
To: comments@surrycountyva.gov

You did well in holding tax Rate at 71 cents. I am sure there were some difficult adjustments made.

Regards,

Mike Eggleston

"If you forward emails please Bcc. Blind copy and remove previous recipients To foil scammers, spammers, and email miners. Thanks "

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Public comments
From: Susan Corvello <scorvello2400@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 3:41 pm
To: mrollins@surrycountyva.gov, mdrewry@surrycountyva.gov, Robert Elliott <relliott@surrycountyva.gov>, Judy Lyttle <jslyttle@surrycountyva.gov>, krholmes@surrycountyva.gov, comments@surrycountyva.gov, tcalhoun@surrycountyva.gov

hello,

I think you need to at least state who you received comments from on line because we do not get any reply back that it was received

Respectfully submitted

Susan

Sent from my iPhone

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Why so much fluff and picture in budget report?

From: Mike Eggleston <michael.eggleston@aol.com>

Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 2:22 pm

To:

Stick to the facts mam we are not trying to win a literary award, but present an understandable budget presentation without

The fluff. Stick to the facts and graphs.

Regards,

Mike eggleston

“If you forward emails please Bcc. Blind copy and remove previous recipients
To foil scammers, spammers, and email miners. Thanks “

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Certifications and inspection

From: Mike Eggleston <michael.eggleston@aol.com>

Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 1:15 pm

To:

Are we doing the proper certifications and inspections on construction going on in industrial by people qualified to do them?

Before you answer yes ,why did it take almost

15 years to discover we had inadequate fire Protection at Windsor woods. Who signed the occupancy certificate and who did they work for? Hire people according to their capabilities not according to who they are related to.

Regards,

Mike Eggleston

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Sale of property at industrial park

From: Mike Eggleston <michael.eggleston@aol.com>

Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 1:02 pm

To:

The property at industrial park to solar power firm. Is the money realized from The sale of property going to be used To make bond payments to make up for the bond payments You said went in the wrong bucket. I don't believe that for a moment. It went exactly Where you wanted it to. There were a lot of

People involved in that decision. Hence no EDA meetings fora number of years. This information came from a number of reliable sources. Why were there no records of these transactions? How many people are involved?

Regards,

Mike Eggleston

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Timing
From: Mike Eggleston <michael.eggleston@aol.com>
Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 2:12 pm
To:

Why do we wait to the very last minute to send agenda updates to some supervisors so they don't have time to review? Maybe if they stoped voting on agenda items added at last minute it would stop. county administrator works for Board of Supervisors and BOS members work for the citizens. Not the other way around. Why are citizen comments not in minutes? It seems more effective to send to the papers.

Regards,
Mike eggleston

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Surry Seafood
From: Mike Eggleston <michael.eggleston@aol.com>
Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 12:49 pm
To:

Why does Surry County still have Surry Seafood on county life support even though restaurant is closed due to Pandemic. If you Can't turn a profit there get rid of it. Another Words sell it. Who ever heard of selling fuel at a loss. Susan C. Made a presentation showing You were selling it at a loss. Thats why county Should not be running a business, because they have no idea what they are doing down there. Why wasn't the proper inspections and Repairs done before leasing building as evidenced by continuing repairs tax payers are paying for? Does the building have a legal occupancy permit?

“If you forward emails please Bcc. Blind copy and remove previous recipients
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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Rhonda Russel
From: Mike Eggleston <michael.eggleston@aol.com>
Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 12:27 pm
To:

During last electronic meeting my computer
Showed Rhonda Russel as an attendee to meeting. The question is wether she is still

Employed or receiving payment from Surry
County being as she works for another county.
This sure smells like a conflict of interest even if it isn't.

“If you forward emails please Bcc. Blind copy and remove previous recipients
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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Genieve Shelter

From: Frances Barnes <franbarnes1217@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, April 30, 2020 12:04 pm

To: comments@surrycountyva.gov

For many years our county has contributed to the Genieve Shelter which serves our area for victims of domestic violence. I don't see that on the budget, and wondered if it has been dropped or is listed differently? Thank you.